

Bulletin

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

Use of Botox, Dermal Fillers and Similar Drugs

The Board has received a number of inquiries regarding the use of Botox, dermal fillers and similar drugs. Under Maryland law, the practice of dentistry is defined, in part in the following manner: “to diagnose, treat, or attempt to diagnose or treat any disease, injury, malocclusion, or malposition of a tooth, gum, or jaw, or structures associated with a tooth, gum, or jaw if the service, operation, or procedure is included in the curricula of an accredited dental school or in an approved dental residency program of an accredited hospital or teaching institution...” Annotated Code of Maryland, Health Occupations Article, § 4-101(1)(3). A dentist may, therefore, use any legally prescribed drugs to treat patients as long as the treatment is within the aforementioned scope of practice. A dentist must also be competently trained to administer Botox and similar drugs in accordance with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.44.32 Competency.

The competency regulations state in relevant part: “A dentist shall limit their practice to the areas of competence by which proficiency has been gained through education, training, and experience.” COMAR 10.44.32.02B(1). In addition, the regulations provide that “A dentist shall seek appropriate education, training, and experience when developing competence in a new service or technique. COMAR 10.44.32.02B(7).

Therefore, the use of Botox, dermal fillers and similar drugs by a dentist must fall within the definition of dentistry, and the dentist must be competent in its administration.